

estimated that 95 per cent of children in the age group 6—11 attend school in Delhi.

Every year a house to house survey is also carried out to find out the number of children in the compulsory age group needing additional schooling facilities. In the last survey made towards the end of 1965, the number of such children was estimated to be 60,000 approximately. According to the Delhi Municipal Corporation about 10 per cent of these have already joined.

12 NOON

MOTION OF PRIVILEGE AGAINST SHRI RAJ NARAIN

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, with regard to the privilege motion moved by the Leader of the House yesterday, may I request him to withdraw the motion and leave the entire matter in your hands to dispose of it as you deem proper?

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA) : I am sure the whole House has every confidence in you and every Member of this House will welcome the suggestion. I am willing to accept it. I leave it to you and I am prepared to withdraw the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will take the matter in my hands and do my best. I hope it will be for the good.

Does he have the permission of the House to withdraw the motion?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MAT- TERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

I. REPORTED MASSING OF TROOPS AND MILITARY EXERCISES BY PAKISTAN ON OUR BORDER

SHRI D. THENGARI (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I beg to call the attention

of the Minister of Defence to the reported massing of troops and military exercises by Pakistan on our border with Pakistan and the situation arising therefrom.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last one month or so, movements of Pakistani troops, on to our borders of Jammu and the Punjab, have been coming to our notice. The movements and other measures taken by the Pakistan Government have caused us some concern. Even assuming that these troop movements are in the nature of exercises, closeness of troops to the border is something which is not expected normally, and certainly not in the context of the Tashkent Agreement and the agreements between the Chief of the Army Staff, India and Commander-in-Chief, Pakistan Army under which the withdrawals took place on both sides.

On 23rd August 1966, Pakistani official sources in India, which could only mean the Pakistan High Commission, incorrectly briefed two foreign correspondents about so-called Indian troop movements on to the borders near Sialkot, Punjab and Kutch. That this kind of briefing was only a cover for Pakistan's own troop movements is obvious. We denied the Pakistani allegation and gave facilities to foreign and Indian journalists to visit our western border. They have seen for themselves that there are no troops on our side near the border and, what is more, they have obtained confirmation, locally, of the fact of the deployment of troops, including armour, etc., just across the border on the Pakistan side.

Troop movements by Pakistan on to our western borders, and their continued retention there, is something which we cannot look upon with equanimity, however restrained we may be in our approach. We must, in the face of this continuing phenomena take precautionary steps. However on assessment of the situation I do not anticipate any imminent threat. I would like to assure the House that we are keeping careful watch over the situation and

have plans to meet any eventuality. We are also exploring various other methods to reduce the tension on our borders.

I hope that this assurance which I have given will give confidence to our people who are living on our western borders and who have been perturbed by the Pakistani troop movements on the other side.

I have been giving to the House an idea of the expansion of Pakistan's armed forces and other steps like improvement and construction of roads and airfields in both West and East Pakistan. While we are aware that Pakistan has been taking measures of military significance in East Pakistan as well, the reports that have been appearing in papers regarding concentration of Pakistan troops near our eastern borders are highly exaggerated.

SHRI D. THENGARI : In view of the statement may I know what steps have been taken so far to revive civil defence activities in our border areas to stop the large-scale demobilisation of our officers to ascertain whether Russia will stand by its commitment notwithstanding the violation of the Tashkent Agreement by Pakistan and to assess whether this time China and Pakistan propose to launch a joint attack?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : So far as civil defence measures are concerned, I have convinced myself that the State Governments concerned are quite vigilant about this particular matter. About the other thing we thought it necessary to bring to the notice of both the U.S.A. and Russia and the Pakistan Government about the significance of the movements that the troops are making on the other side of the border and I think they have also shown some concern about it.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया (मध्य प्रदेश) : पाकिस्तान की सीमा पर बातें हो रही हैं, हम भी अपना प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं कि उनका मुकाबला करें, मगर इसके साथ-साथ खेमकरण की सीमा पर भी जो भारत

की सीमा में भारतीय रहते हैं उनमें भय छाया है और कुछ नागरिकों ने अपने रिश्तेदारों को, औरतों को अन्दर भेजा है ऐसा अखबारों में छपा है। पूर्वी पाकिस्तान के क्षेत्र में कुछ सशस्त्र पाकिस्तानी हमारे क्षेत्र में घुस आए, फसलें काट ले गए, उनमें से कुछ लोगों को पकड़ा भी गया, एक आघात मारा भी गया। यह सारी स्थिति है। एक, सीमा पर रहने वाले लोगों के मन में भय न रहे, दूसरे, सीमा के क्षेत्र में पाकिस्तान के एजेंट के रूप में कार्य करने वाले न रहें—इसके बारे में हम कोई विशेष कदम उठा रहे हैं अथवा नहीं ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Regarding the concern and fear spread in the border areas, as far as Punjab is concerned I have myself sent a message to the Governor of Punjab to take steps to see that unnecessary fear complex is not allowed to grow. Naturally we have not allowed our troops to move in the border area because our idea is and our aim is not to allow increase of tension. Secondly, on the borders we have our border security check-posts and their presence there should be enough guarantee for the people themselves and the purpose of my making this statement is also to give that assurance to the people so that they may not be afraid of it.

The hon. Member has also made a reference to the East Pakistan side and as he himself said that those people who tried to trespass or make encroachment on our borders have been very effectively dealt with, that shows that we have taken enough steps about it.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU (Andhra Pradesh) : May I know whether it is not a fact that the Pakistanis have built a small air-strip in the Ghotla area near the Haji Pir Pass and are improving their road communications?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : It is not true.

SHRI G. MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh) : I would like to know from the Government whether in view of the latest note handed over by the Pakistan

[Shri G. Murahari.]

Government which virtually closes down all talks and in view of the fact that there have been certain concentrations of troops on the other side, would the Government think it proper to give arms to the people in the border areas for self-defence in case of some sudden attack or infiltration? The question arises because we all know that the Pakistani authorities are preparing to celebrate, what they call, the Defence of Pakistan Day on the 6th of September. So, in view of all these circumstances, I would like to know from the Government whether they are thinking of arming the border people. Another question is that the latest information regarding the supply of 90 Sabre jet planes by Iran to Pakistan has been confirmed. Not only has it been confirmed, but it is now a fact that these planes are not for any repair purposes but have been actually supplied to Pakistan for their use although various reasons were given earlier by the Governments of Iran and Canada as to the object of the transfer of these planes. Therefore, I would like to know from the Government what steps they are taking in this matter also.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Sir, the purpose of the hon. Member's question, as far as the first part of the question is concerned, is to know whether we are giving arms to the civil population. Sir, I can say that my answer to that is in the affirmative. Naturally, the State Government is entrusted with this work, and they are giving arms, etc. to the civil persons. Naturally, there cannot be any question of arming the entire population as such because, as you know, arming them in this way, in an unorganised manner, would not lead to any desirable results. Well, that is another question that sometimes we will have to discuss, certainly not in the time of the question hour.

About the other question, Sir, it is a fact that a number of Sabre jets have been received by Pakistan through Iran, and we have certainly lodged our protest and taken up this matter diplomatically with both the Governments. I should like to say, with the three Governments including the Government of Canada.

DR. B. N. ANTANI (Gujarat) : Sir, is the hon. Minister aware of the massive concentration of army troops on our Kutch border and, side by side, aware that organised espionage activity is being carried on by agents-provocateur who are suspected to be Gujarat Government-patronised elements whose letters, after censor, have been found to be incriminating? Will the Government check up this information and see that adequate steps are taken?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Sir, I will answer the first part of the question first, whether there is concentration of troops on our Kutch border. Of course there is the presence of some units of the Pakistani army but which I consider a normal thing.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : Particularly in the Kanjarkot area very recently.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I know but I won't interpret it in military terms as concentration of troops. It is much better that we make a realistic assessment of the situation. About the other part of the question, naturally we must presume that espionage work must be going on; I cannot deny that sort of fact, but as to the allegation which is contained in the latter part of the question, I have no information about it. I had recently some discussions with the Chief Minister . . .

DR. B. N. ANTANI : Give some credit to what I say; I am a responsible person.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I can give, certainly. You have raised the question and, naturally, I will have to find out from the Gujarat Government, but for that also I would like the hon. Member to give me some specific information. It would not be enough just to give me a vague impression that somebody is involved.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : I have already conveyed that information to the Home Minister's office, and I shall do it to your office now.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Thank you very much.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, the hon. the Defence Minister stated that a party of Indian and foreign correspondents was taken to the border areas to see things for themselves. Now the Indian correspondents have published their observations in their respective newspapers. May I ask the Minister—because we have no scope of scanning foreign journals—what impression this trip made on the foreign correspondents? It is necessary that we should know the facts because we lost on the propaganda front last year because Pakistan had made it appear in the Western press that we were the aggressors. Has the Minister seen any of the reports that have been published in the foreign press? Has he received any information from the Information Officers about the reactions of the foreign correspondents? The second connected question that I would like to ask is whether Government have invited any representative of the American Embassy to visit the border areas. Because Pakistan depends on the military equipment supplied by the United States, we would like the American Embassy officials to see for themselves to what use Pakistan is putting all the defence equipment which they have given them.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Sir, as far as the question about the news printed abroad in the foreign press is concerned, I have not seen any such reports as yet, but I am trying to go through the reports. But my impression about their trip to the border areas is that they were convinced that there was no concentration on our side and they got confirmation of the concentration of troops on the other side. As to the suggestion of sending any representative of any particular Government, it was not considered very necessary at that time, but if they have any interest in that particular matter, we are not reluctant to consider this suggestion.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : While congratulating the Minister for declaring that our country is totally prepared to meet any aggression from Pakistan, may I ask him one question? May I ask whether it is a fact that the

World Bank, and other aid-givers of Western countries have expressed their disapproval of our defence expenditure and have been mounting pressure upon the Government of India to reduce their defence expenditure? And this thing has been made known to our Government by our Ambassador in Washington, Mr. B. K. Nehru, during his recent visit to the capital. This is number one. Number two question is whether our Government . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You wanted to put one question. You indeed began by saying that you wanted to put one question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Is the Government aware that Pakistan warships were found in the Bay of Bengal very recently, and previously on the river Padma dividing West Bengal and East Pakistan?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Sir, about this mounting of pressures, etc. to reduce our defence expenditure, I have not received any pressure, no pressure has been put on me, because our own decision is that we will not allow any pressures to come in the way of our making reasonable and necessary defence preparedness of this country. People do express their views about many matters and possibly they may have expressed their views in this matter too.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR (Madhya Pradesh) : Our economic difficulties notwithstanding, the hon. Minister said that they are not going to come in the way and lead to reducing the defence expenditure. May I ask him why then he is closing down the various Service Selection Boards at different places? And, secondly, there were reports in the press that many officers, who were recruited for service in the last war, the commissioned officers, are being retrenched. About seventy-five people have been retrenched so far, if I am not mistaken. Thirdly, in view of the Red Guards movement, which is an extremist type of movement in China now, and Pakistan's collusion with China, does not the Government think that the danger to this country from that particular border is very imminent?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question refers to our border with Pakistan.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR : Yes, Pakistan border.

MR. CHAIRMAN : And you are asking about China.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Sir, I think I should say something to his question because, if this question remained unanswered, it may create a wrong impression. I mean to say that the information that he has received about retrenchment is completely incorrect. As far as the question of the Emergency Commissions is concerned, Sir, the very purpose of this scheme was to recruit those people for a certain period, and Government has prepared a certain scheme as a result of which one-third of the officers will be absorbed as permanent commissioned officers and, naturally, the rest of them will have to go. Really speaking, those who have proved their worth by their work and ability and aptitudes, etc., well, they can be absorbed as permanent commissioned officers in the army, but the rest of them, naturally, will have to leave the army career. But Government have taken certain decisions to absorb them in the different services, and certain percentages have been fixed for them in the I.A.S., I.F.S. and I.P.S., and similar requests have also been made to the State Governments to make similar reservations. When we say that we want them to go out, the idea is to keep the army young. When we say that this number of people will be allowed to go out of army service, a similar number will be continuously recruited.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : How old is the Defence Minister ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : As old as any Member of Parliament can be.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh) : What about closing down of the centres ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : There was no question of closing down of any centres. He mentioned about Selection Boards, and through them, Sir, we were recruiting defence personnel, and it was

only after 1962 up to 1965, when we had rather a large deficit of army officers and when we had, naturally, opened a large number of Selection Boards. But the same number of selection boards may not be necessary. As long as we are recruiting the required number of officers it does not matter how many selection boards are there. So the cadre of the Army which was built up to a particular level, that level will be maintained. As for what was said about the Chinese thing, I really did not understand it. I have stated in my last statement that both the Pakistani and Chinese threats have a long-term aspect and we have to take that as the basis for our preparation.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA (Bihar) : I would like to know from the Defence Minister about this collusion between Pakistan and China. After the last war with Pakistan a new military pattern has come in and there is a very close military alignment between China and Pakistan and they have supplied Pakistan arms, tanks, aeroplanes and all that. Now, you will remember, Sir, that during the last September war with Pakistan, towards the end of that, the Chinese wanted to raise certain border problems on the Sikkim side and they wanted to draw us into a war somehow. I want to know whether the Defence Minister has got any indication that there is a certain amount of collusion in the movements on the borders, I mean both the borders, the Pakistani border on the one hand and the Chinese border on the other. Are there some sort of simultaneous preparations or exercises or concentration of troops on both the borders, i.e. our borders with Pakistan and our borders with China ? Is there the same type of collusion between the two ? That is what I want to understand.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : The hon. Member started his question presuming that it is a fact that there is collusion between Pakistan and China. So he does not require any further proof. The only question that emerges out of the long thing that he said is, whether there is any special movement on the Chinese front. Sir, the position is, China has

stationed its troops permanently in such a position that it can always be in a threatening posture. This is the position about China. But at the same time I must say that presuming that this threatening posture continues, in addition to that, I have not seen any special movements.

SHRI SYED AHMAD (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I want to put just one question. I read a piece of news that following the protests from the Government of India to the Iran Government, the Government of Iran has promised that they would withdraw the sabre jets sent to Pakistan. Is that correct?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I think on this point I will have to get the information from the Ministry of External Affairs. On this point I will not rush to give an answer.

DR. ANUP SINGH (Punjab) : There was a news item a couple of days back that the services of some of the commissioned officers will not be required any longer and that some suitable civil posts will be reserved for them. I would like to ask the Defence Minister whether in view of the prevailing tension between India and Pakistan and possibly a mounting tension, it is desirable and appropriate to terminate the services of these officers.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I do not know if hon. Members have got the wrong impression that we are going to terminate the services of these officers immediately. It is a phased programme which will start from 1967 and goes up to 1970. It is a four-year programme and as these people go out an equal number of people who were having training before, will be coming in. So all those who have proved their ability as good officers will be retained. I would like to explain the position. When we had these emergency commissions we had to give some relaxations with regard to age etc. Some of these people have themselves found out after experience that they should go out and it is much better that we ourselves see that these young men having no future prospects in the Army, in their interest and in the national interest, in

order to utilise their talents in other fields, are released in an organised way and we rehabilitate them in other fields of administrative and other activities.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : क्या रक्षा मंत्री जी का ध्यान, श्री रघुनाथ सिंह जी जो डेलीगेशन लेकर काश्मीर गये थे और लौटने के बाद यहां अखबारों को बयान दिया है कि पाकिस्तान की जो अम्बेसी यहां है इसके जरिये सीमा पर और काश्मीर के अंदर बहुत कुछ खुराफात, कराया जा रहा है और बहुत से लोगों को ट्रेनिंग देने की व्यवस्था कराई जा रही है, उधर गया है और यदि गया है तो सरकार ने उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Naturally these things are always closely watched and both the Home Ministry and the Kashmir Government are aware of what is going on and they are having counter measures in this matter. More than that I do not know what I can say.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal) : Will the . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are many Members who have not put their questions and I beg of Members to see that we have spent more than 25 minutes. How long shall we go on?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : I want to know the approximate number of Pakistani troops on the border and the number of Indian troops on the border.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not give a reply.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I am not giving a reply. That is what I was going to say.

II. ALLEGED INDISCRIMINATE USE OF DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES DURING RECENT DISTURBANCES IN ASSAM

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, may I say that since both the two remaining Calling Attention